

MOSTD Status Report

Prepared by Susan Hettinger, DIS/MOSTD (360) 902-3572.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to make ISB members aware of work by the Management and Oversight of Strategic Technologies Division (MOSTD) that is underway, but not reflected in the meeting agenda. Some of the projects and activities listed below will eventually be brought to the Board as informational or action items; others may not.

Planning: MOSTD staff is beginning to make arrangements for an ISB planning retreat in the first quarter of 2005. The purpose of the retreat will be to solicit Board direction for updating the statutorily required State Strategic Information Technology Plan. That plan will then influence the work plans of MOSTD and its six business units (Oversight, Policy, Digital Academy, Small Agency Client Services, Enterprise Architecture, and Administration). Preliminary drafts of these work plans and individual accountabilities for each staff member are now in draft, and will be revised based on the output of the ISB planning retreat.

Strategic Sourcing: The Department of Information Services (DIS) has been participating with the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the Department of General Administration (GA) on a Strategic Sourcing Initiative recommended by Priorities of Government Team 11. The objective of the initiative is to save money through improved purchasing practices. Silver Oaks Solutions, a consulting firm performing the initial analysis for this effort, has identified seven categories of goods and services that they believe offer a range of savings for the state. Three of these categories (information technology professional services, computer hardware, and network equipment and maintenance) fall within the regulatory authority of the ISB. Measures under consideration include standardized configurations of desktop systems and possible "mandatory-buy" contracts. If implemented, the Strategic Sourcing Initiative may require modifications to the ISB's investment policies and standards.

Competitive Contracting: MOSTD staff is working with GA on the rules for implementation of Competitive Contracting, a part of the Personnel Systems Reform Act of 2002. An issue of potential concern from an ISB perspective pertains to acquisition protest rules. The question is whether, when a state agency decides to contract out an IT function and an employee bargaining unit bids on it unsuccessfully, ISB protest procedures apply or GA's protest procedures apply. Our assistant attorney general's analysis is that the two statutes may be read as consistent and not in conflict if the two procedures are invoked sequentially; that is, first, ISB protest procedures would apply, and then, if the protestor is still dissatisfied, GA's procedures would apply.

Policy Development: A Board briefing on MOSTD's policy development process is planned for the March 2005 meeting. In the meantime, the policy staff will continue its regular approach of periodic reviews of all policies, standards, and guidelines for determination of those in need of revision or retirement. Policies and standards that will come before the Board in the near future are: IT Security, IT Investment (which will include new procedures for ISB-level reviews of protested acquisitions), Model Contracts, Portfolio Management, and Web Presentation.

Biennial Performance Report: The statewide biennial performance report is in draft and under review. The statute directs DIS (rather than the ISB) to submit this comprehensive report to the Legislature. We expect to distribute the report in January.

Business Continuity: In January, the Digital Academy kicks off a multi-agency initiative focusing attention on, and providing useful resources for business continuity planning for Washington. Currently there is no cohesive, sustainable statewide plan identifying the primary risks across the enterprise, accounting for dependencies between and among agencies, capitalizing on economies of scale, or coordinating agency efforts to avoid duplicating Business Continuity efforts. The Academy will bring together business and technical leaders and staff from across the agencies to develop a common, statewide Business Continuity planning approach which will include processes, tools, and templates that all Washington state and local agencies can use in their planning efforts.

Small Agency Client Services Technology Pool: DIS, OFM, and GA jointly manage the technology pool, a funding source for hardware, software, network services, and telecommunication services for small agencies. The 2004 supplemental operating budget provided \$450,000 for this purpose. To date the state's investment in the small agency program totals \$1,100,815. The Governor's budget for the 2005-07 Biennium reflects continued funding to address IT technical, security, and facility requirements of small agencies. The distribution of these funds produces the following benefits: increased access to state services; access to Washington's statewide web applications via the Inter/intranet; increased use of shared hardware/software; a more secure operating environment for small agencies; the ability to interact with other state agencies; and the ability to implement digital government initiatives. These results are accomplished by co-location of small agencies within office parks, co-location of small agencies within a local government or federal facility, and partnerships where a larger agency hosts a smaller agency within the larger agency's facility.